

**image**  
**273**  
DIGITAL  
EDITION

T. McFARLANE  
S. KUDRANSKI

# SPAWN®







TODD McFARLANE  
SCRIPT/PLOT

SZYMON KUDRANSKI  
ART

TODD McFARLANE  
ADDITIONAL INKS

FCO PLASCENCIA  
COLOR

TOM ORZECOWSKI  
LETTERING

RAMON NUNEZ  
COVER

TODD McFARLANE  
EDITOR

Publishing Coordinator  
SHANNON BAILEY

Art Director  
BEN TIMMRECK

Production Artist  
JORDAN BUTLER

Publisher For Image Comics  
ERIC STEPHENSON

SPAWN CREATED BY  
TODD McFARLANE



#### PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

The S.W.A.T team knocks down the door and Al uses his powers to distract them as he and Cyan escape. Outside, Cyan cloaks Al using her powers and the S.W.A.T. team leaves to look for them elsewhere. Once they're out of danger, Al enlists Earl's help to find Terry and when he locates him, Spawn goes to visit the man holding Terry hostage. Spawn scares him by threatening his children and to keep them safe, Terry's captor makes a call to have him released. To ensure the man never bothers anyone again, Spawn beats him bloody. Elsewhere, The Soul Crusher visits the home of Mr. Matlin and sends a deadly message to him by gassing Matlin's son and dog.

SO,  
NOW IT'S  
COME TO  
THIS?

IT'S NOT GOOD  
ENOUGH FOR A CROOK  
TO COME IN AND STEAL  
OR BEAT THEIR VICTIMS.  
THEY NEED TO POISON  
THEM WHILE THEY'RE AT IT.  
I SWEAR THE INTERNET IS  
GIVING THESE PSYCHOS  
OUT THERE WAY TOO  
MANY IDEAS.

DO WE  
KNOW WHAT  
KILLED HIM,  
YET?

SOME TYPE  
OF GAS. WE'VE SENT  
A SAMPLE OUT TO THE LAB  
ALREADY. BUT AS FAR AS  
WE CAN TELL, THERE'S NO  
OTHER MARKS ON HIM. NO  
SIGNS OF A STRUGGLE  
OR A FIGHT.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
MAKE OF THE  
MASK?

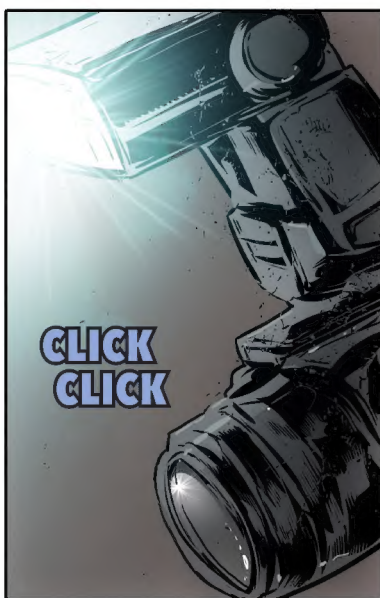
CLICK

SOME KIND  
OF TOKEN TO LET  
US ALL KNOW HOW  
SPECIAL THE KILLER IS.  
THE REAL SADISTIC  
ONES GET A KICK OUT  
OF LEAVING VISUAL  
HINTS BEHIND.





MAKES THEM  
BELIEVE THEY'RE  
SOME KIND OF GENIUS  
CRIMINAL MIND. AND THEY  
WANT US TO ALL BE IMPRESSED.  
BECAUSE OF COURSE, WE  
ALL NEED MORE DEAD  
DOGS WITH MASKS OVER  
THEIR FACE.



CLICK  
CLICK

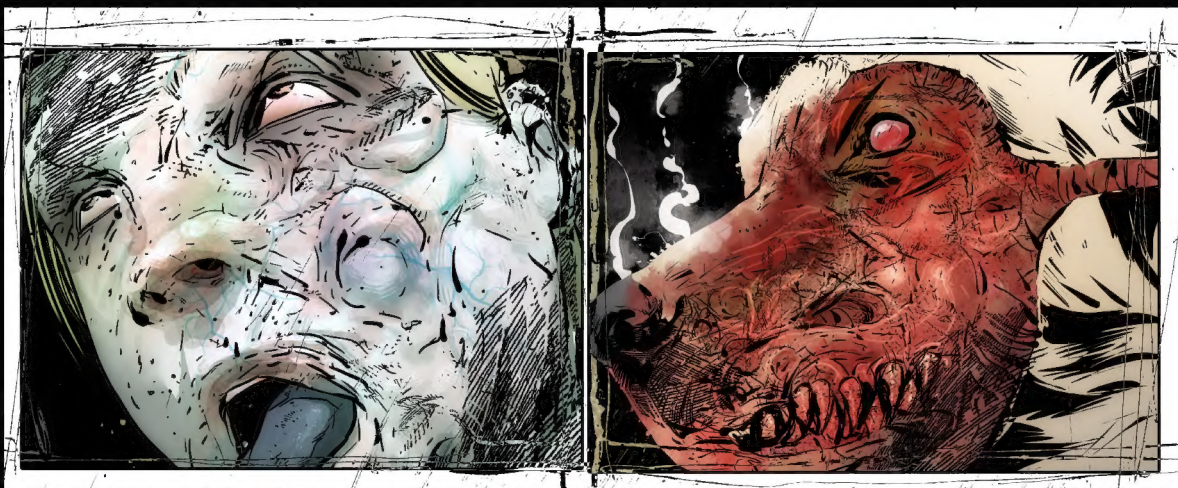


LET'S GET  
A FEW PICS  
WITHOUT THE  
MASKS.



NONE OF THE THREE MEN CAN  
FIND WORDS FOR WHAT THEY  
NOW SEE IN FRONT OF THEM.





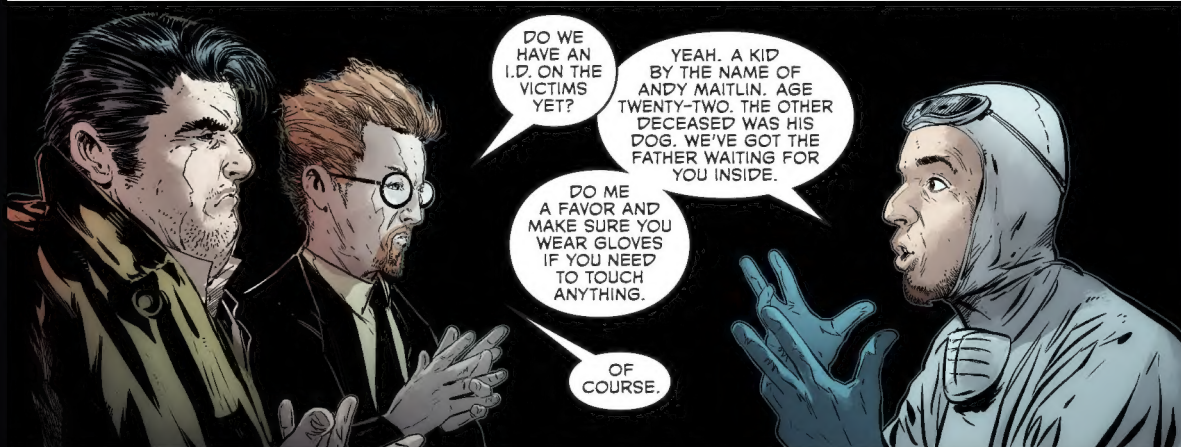
THEY'D THOUGHT THE VICTIMS ONLY HAD INTERIOR TRAUMA TO THEIR LUNGS. OBVIOUSLY, THEY ASSUMED WRONG.



HEY, TWITCH. SAM. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE WHAT'S INSIDE THE HOUSE.

UM... YOU'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO SEE FOR YOURSELF.

THAT BAD?



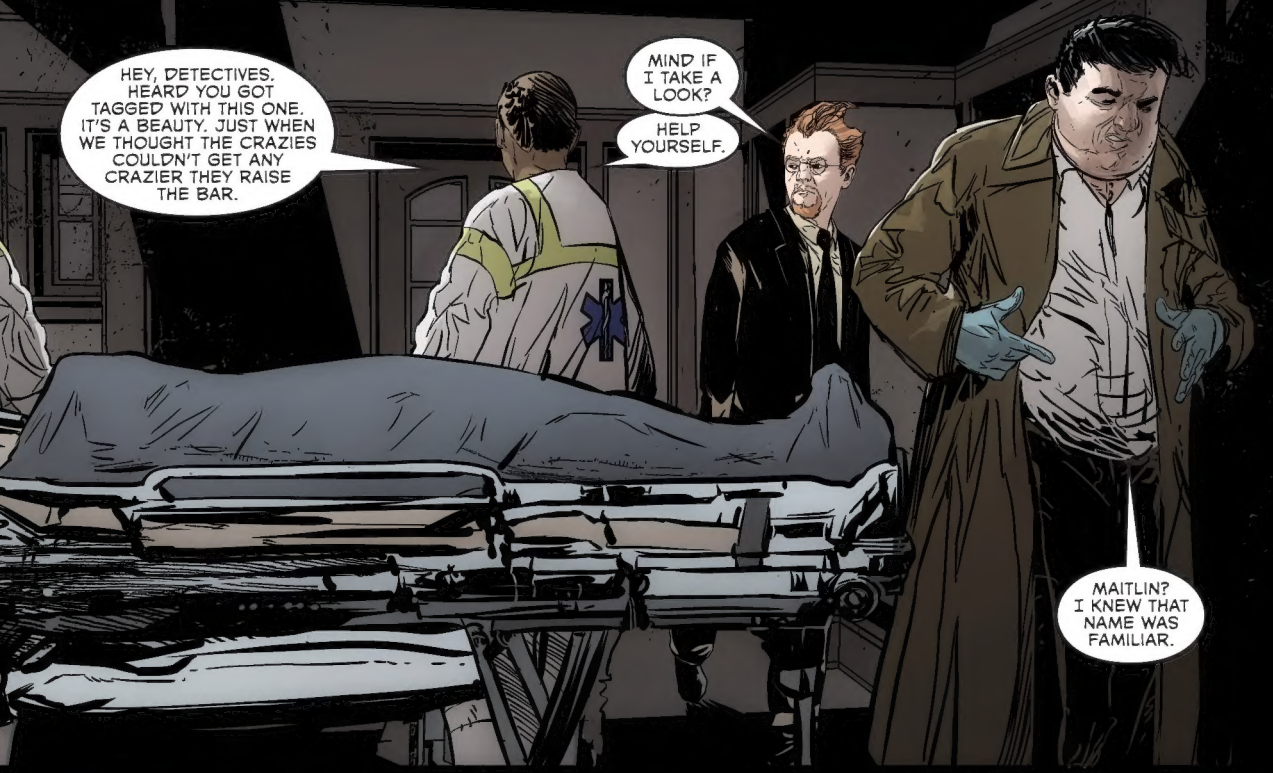
DO WE HAVE AN I.D. ON THE VICTIMS YET?

YEAH. A KID BY THE NAME OF ANDY MAITLIN. AGE TWENTY-TWO. THE OTHER DECEASED WAS HIS DOG. WE'VE GOT THE FATHER WAITING FOR YOU INSIDE.

DO ME A FAVOR AND MAKE SURE YOU WEAR GLOVES IF YOU NEED TO TOUCH ANYTHING.

OF COURSE.





HEY, DETECTIVES.  
HEARD YOU GOT  
TAGGED WITH THIS ONE.  
IT'S A BEAUTY. JUST WHEN  
WE THOUGHT THE CRAZIES  
COULDN'T GET ANY  
CRAZIER THEY RAISE  
THE BAR.

MIND IF  
I TAKE A  
LOOK?

HELP  
YOURSELF.

MAITLIN?  
I KNEW THAT  
NAME WAS  
FAMILIAR.



HE'S SOME  
KIND OF BIG  
SHOT INVESTOR OR  
STOCK HOLDER FOR  
SOME BIOCHEMICAL  
COMPANY,  
I THINK.



MR. MAITLIN?  
DO YOU MIND  
IF WE ASK YOU A  
FEW QUESTIONS  
BEFORE YOU HEAD  
TO THE  
CORONER'S?

DID YOU  
SEE WHAT  
HAPPENED TO  
MY BOY?

WE  
DID.



WHAT  
KIND OF  
PERSON DOES  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT?

WE DON'T  
KNOW. BUT  
OUR JOB IS TO  
FIND YOU THAT  
ANSWER.





YOU  
MISS HER  
TOO, DON'T  
YOU?



YOUR  
MOM?



YEAH. SHE  
DIDN'T TALK  
TO ME MUCH  
ABOUT WHEN  
YOU GUYS WERE  
MARRIED.

BUT I COULD  
TELL SHE HAD SOME  
KIND OF SPECIAL BOND  
WITH YOU. I THINK SHE  
MOSTLY TRIED TO HIDE  
IT FROM MY DAD.

I  
WISH...



...THAT  
SHE WAS  
STILL HERE.  
DON'T  
YOU?

EVERY  
DAY.



SO WHAT  
DO WE DO  
NOW?





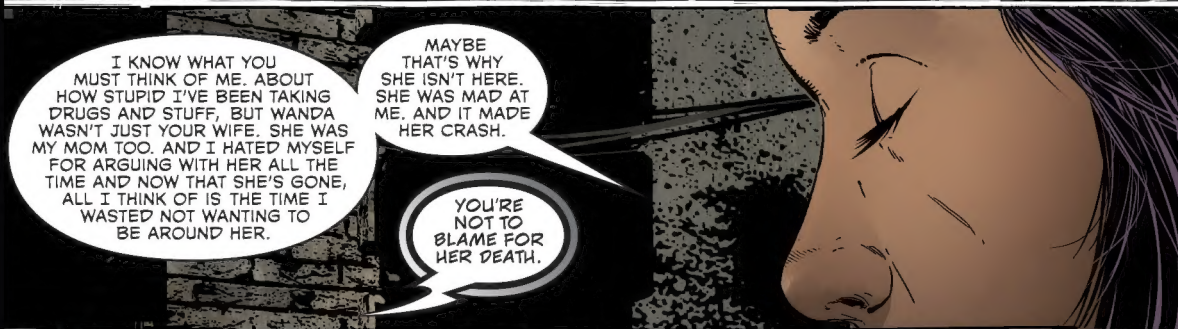
I DON'T  
KNOW  
WHERE MY  
DAD IS.

I'M  
WORKING  
ON THAT.

I KNOW WHAT YOU  
MUST THINK OF ME. ABOUT  
HOW STUPID I'VE BEEN TAKING  
DRUGS AND STUFF, BUT WANDA  
WASN'T JUST YOUR WIFE. SHE WAS  
MY MOM TOO. AND I HATED MYSELF  
FOR ARGUING WITH HER ALL THE  
TIME AND NOW THAT SHE'S GONE,  
ALL I THINK OF IS THE TIME I  
WASTED NOT WANTING TO  
BE AROUND HER.

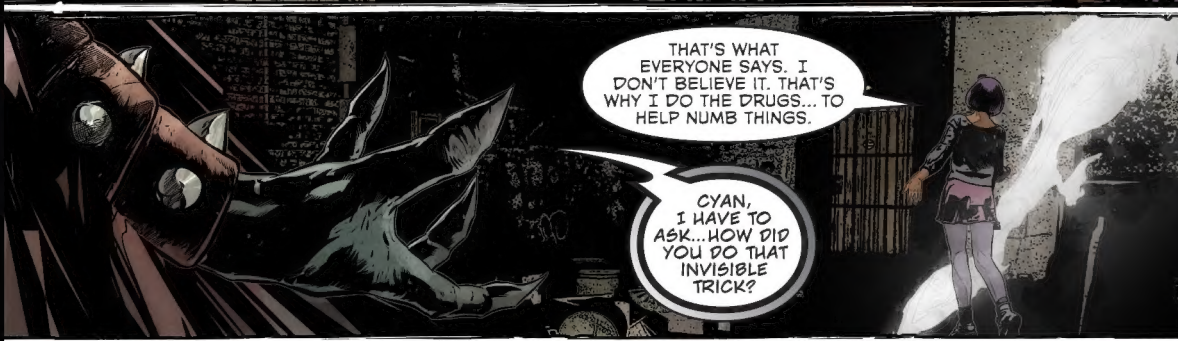
MAYBE  
THAT'S WHY  
SHE ISN'T HERE.  
SHE WAS MAD AT  
ME. AND IT MADE  
HER CRASH.

YOU'RE  
NOT TO  
BLAME FOR  
HER DEATH.



THAT'S WHAT  
EVERYONE SAYS. I  
DON'T BELIEVE IT. THAT'S  
WHY I DO THE DRUGS... TO  
HELP NUMB THINGS.

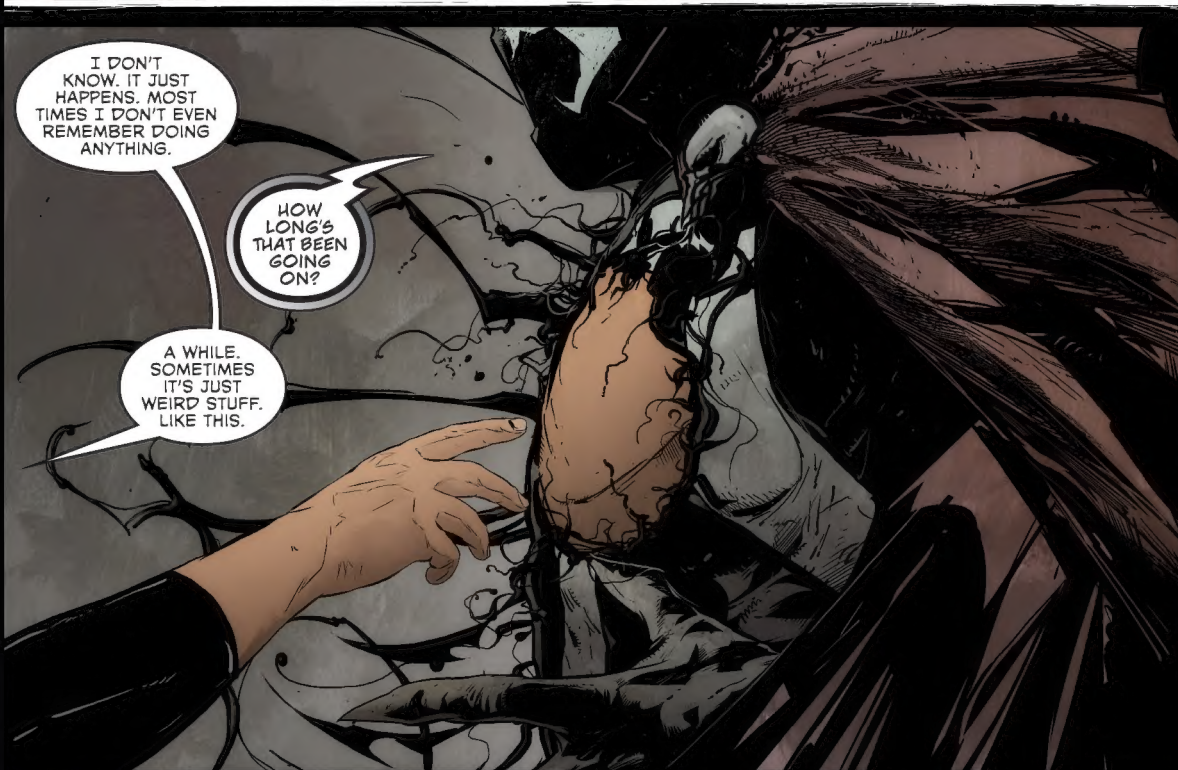
CYAN,  
I HAVE TO  
ASK...HOW DID  
YOU DO THAT  
INVISIBLE  
TRICK?



I DON'T  
KNOW. IT JUST  
HAPPENS. MOST  
TIMES I DON'T EVEN  
REMEMBER DOING  
ANYTHING.

HOW  
LONG'S  
THAT BEEN  
GOING  
ON?

A WHILE.  
SOMETIMES  
IT'S JUST  
WEIRD STUFF.  
LIKE THIS.

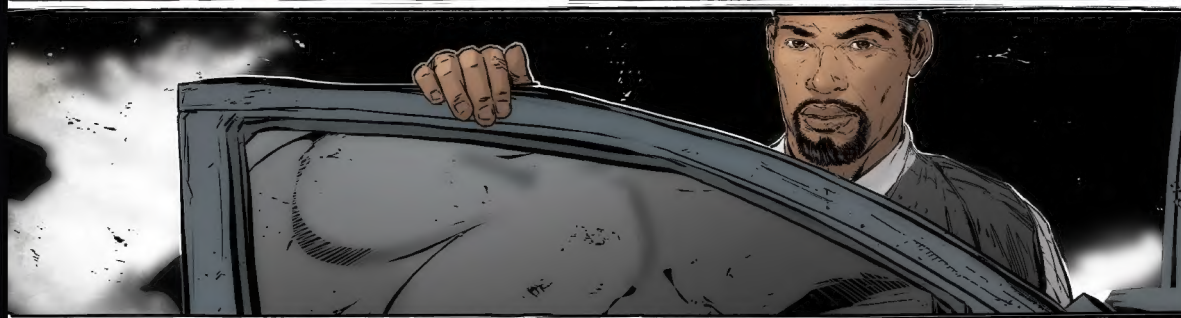




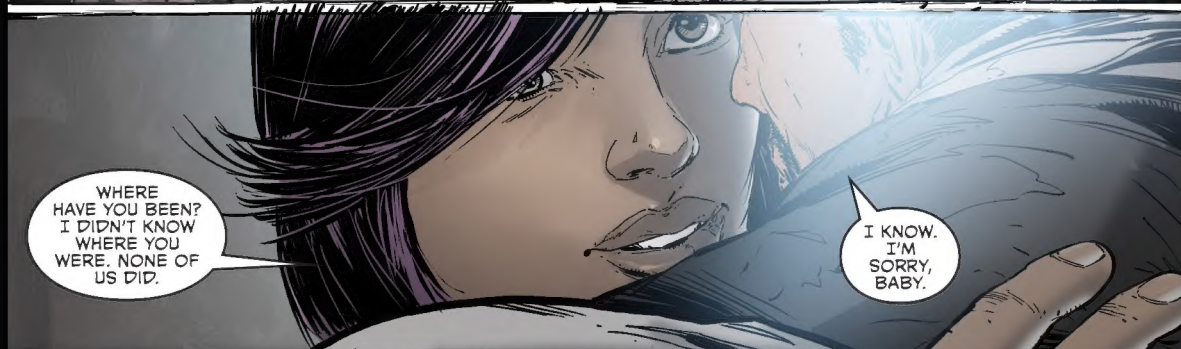


IT'S LIKE  
YOUR COSTUME  
IS AFRAID. BUT  
WHY? I'M NOT  
TRYING TO...

SOMEONE'S  
COMING!



**DAD?!**



WHERE  
HAVE YOU BEEN?  
I DIDN'T KNOW  
WHERE YOU  
WERE. NONE OF  
US DID.

I KNOW.  
I'M  
SORRY,  
BABY.





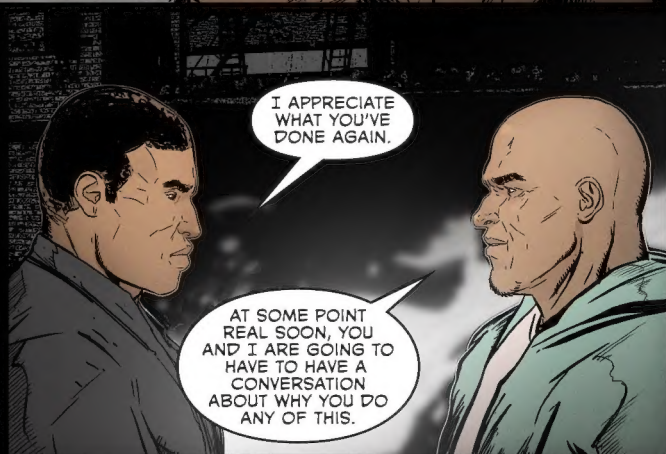
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE FOR YOU. YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ALONE.

I WASN'T ALONE. AL WAS WITH ME.

YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT EVEN HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON BECAUSE THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE THAT'LL STOP AT NOTHING TO GET WHAT THEY WANT. I GOT LUCKY EARL WAS THERE WHEN I WAS FINALLY FREED.

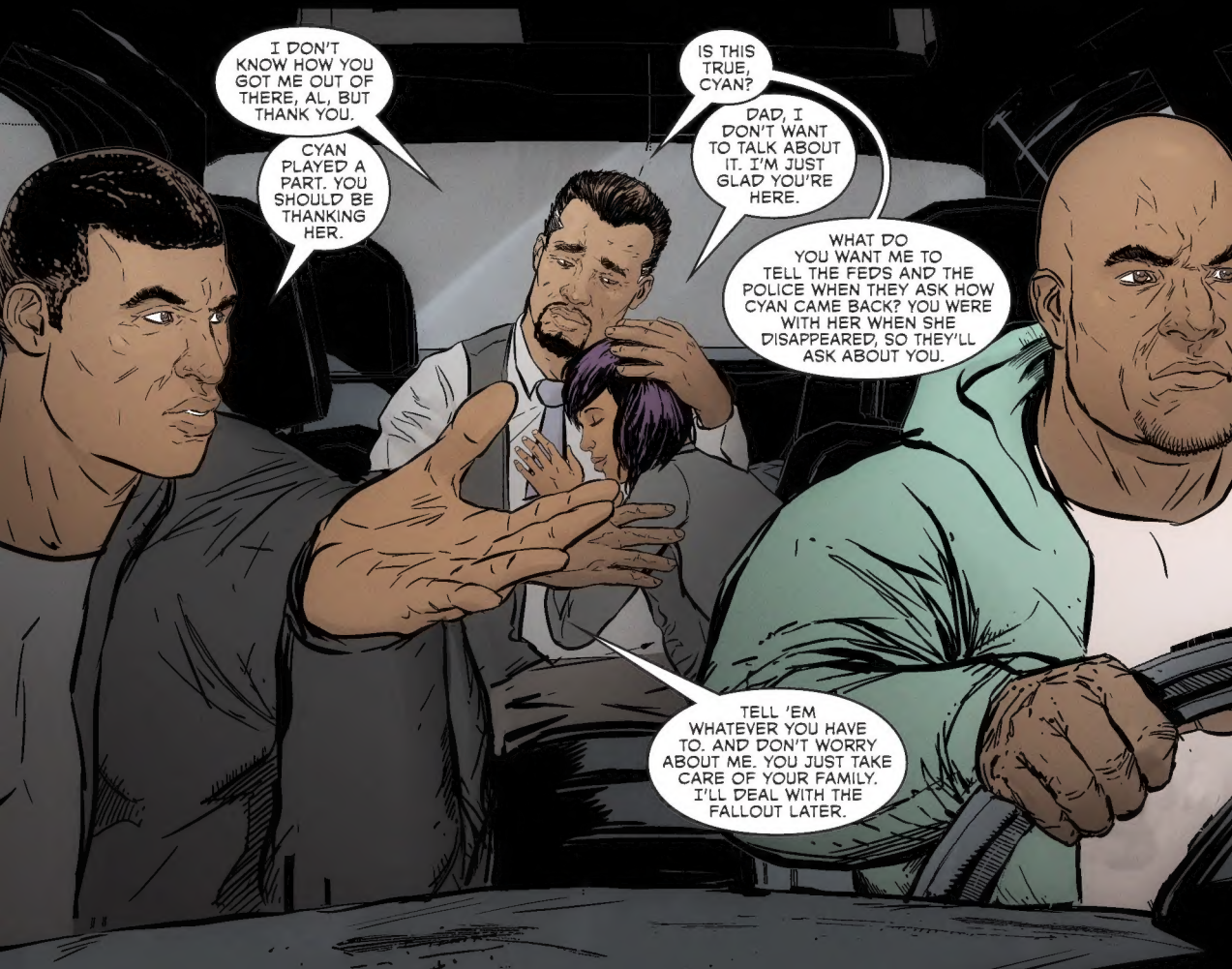


I TOLD YOU, I WAS JUST DOING WHAT AL TOLD ME TO DO.



I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'VE DONE AGAIN.

AT SOME POINT REAL SOON, YOU AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE TO HAVE A CONVERSATION ABOUT WHY YOU DO ANY OF THIS.



I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT ME OUT OF THERE, AL, BUT THANK YOU.

CYAN PLAYED A PART. YOU SHOULD BE THANKING HER.

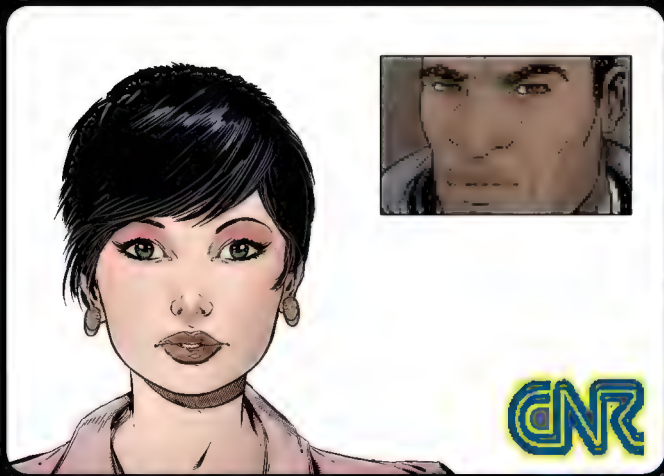
IS THIS TRUE, CYAN?

DAD, I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT. I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO TELL THE FED'S AND THE POLICE WHEN THEY ASK HOW CYAN CAME BACK? YOU WERE WITH HER WHEN SHE DISAPPEARED, SO THEY'LL ASK ABOUT YOU.

TELL 'EM WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO. AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. YOU JUST TAKE CARE OF YOUR FAMILY. I'LL DEAL WITH THE FALLOUT LATER.





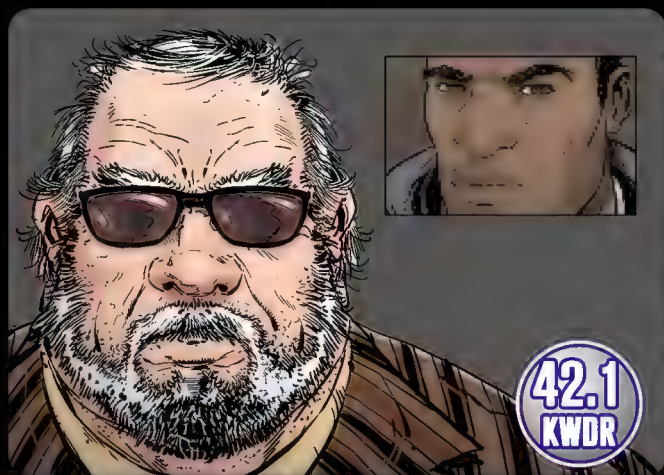
LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND STATE OFFICIALS ARE STILL UNSURE OF EXACTLY HOW THE YOUNG GIRL RETURNED. IT HAD BEEN JUST OVER TWO DAYS SINCE SHE VANISHED FROM AN ADOLESCENT CARE FACILITY. AS WE'VE BEEN REPORTING, SHE WAS IN THE COMPANY OF A FAMILY FRIEND WHEN IT HAPPENED.

THE GIRL'S FATHER TOLD THE POLICE HE DOESN'T KNOW WHERE HIS FRIEND IS. INSIDERS SAY THAT A "MANHUNT" HAS BEGUN TO FIND THIS MYSTERIOUS MAN WHO WAS CAUGHT ON ONE OF THE HOSPITAL CAMERAS. UNFORTUNATELY, THE QUALITY OF THE IMAGE IS POOR, SO IF ANYONE OUT THERE HAS ANY INFORMATION...



...PLEASE CALL THE POLICE. WE HAVE A HOTLINE NUMBER THAT HAS BEEN SET UP TO FIELD ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION THAT MIGHT LEAD TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THIS MAN. POLICE ARE BEING CAREFUL NOT TO SAY HE WAS INVOLVED IN ANY WAY WITH WHAT HAPPENED. THEY ARE MERELY LOOKING TO QUESTION THIS INDIVIDUAL. FOR NOW, THEY DON'T KNOW IF THIS MAN WAS PART OF A CRIME OR WAS HE ABDUCTED UNWILLINGLY.

THE YOUNG GIRL TOLD POLICE SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER HOW SHE GOT OUT OF THE ROOM SHE WAS STAYING IN OR WHERE THIS MR. SMITH HAS GONE TO. DOCTORS ARE SAYING THIS TYPE OF MEMORY LOSS IS TYPICAL IN PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD BOUTS WITH DEPRESSION OR DRUGS. LUCKILY, WE CAN REPORT THAT THE YOUNG LADY IS HEALTHY AND UNHARMED PHYSICALLY.




IS IT ME!? OR DOES **ALL THIS** STINK TO HIGH HEAVEN? THE HOSPITAL **DOESN'T KNOW** ANYTHING. THE FATHER **CAN'T REMEMBER** WHY HIS FRIEND WAS THERE VISITING HIS DAUGHTER AND THE DAUGHTER HERSELF SAYS SHE CAN'T RECALL ANY DETAILS!

**WOW!** AT LEAST A FEW PEOPLE WHO SUPPORTED OUR PRESIDENT'S CALL FOR MORE "**LAW AND ORDER**" HAVE SUPPOSEDLY ASSEMBLED A TEAM TO HUNT THIS MAN IN THE BLURRY PHOTO AND BRING HIM TO JUSTICE BEFORE HE TRIES TO MOLEST ANY OTHER INNOCENT, GOD-FEARING CHILDREN OUT THERE.

BUT!... I HAVE A **BETTER** SOLUTION. INSTEAD OF CALLING THE POLICE, GET A FEW OF YOUR HUSBANDS TO CIRCLE THE GUY AND MAKE HIM WISH HE NEVER MESSED WITH A CHILD EVER AGAIN. HELL, CALL ME FIRST. I'LL COME HELP YOU!

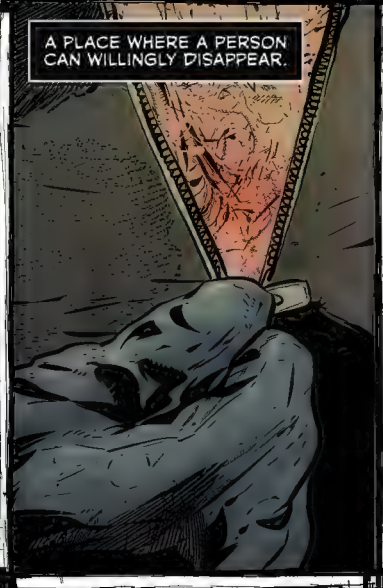




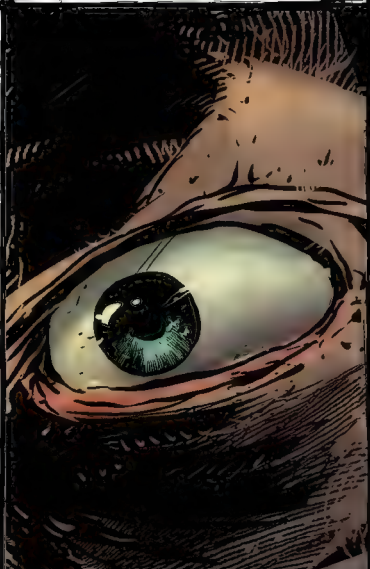
DEEP IN THE BOWELS OF SOME  
OLD NEW YORK SEWER SYSTEMS,  
IS A LABYRINTH OF TUNNELS  
THAT MOST EVERYONE BELIEVES  
HAVE LONG AGO OUTLIVED THEIR  
PURPOSE. BUT FOR A FEW THIS  
MAZE IS A TREASURE. A PLACE  
TO ALLOW SOMEONE TO GO  
UNDETECTED.



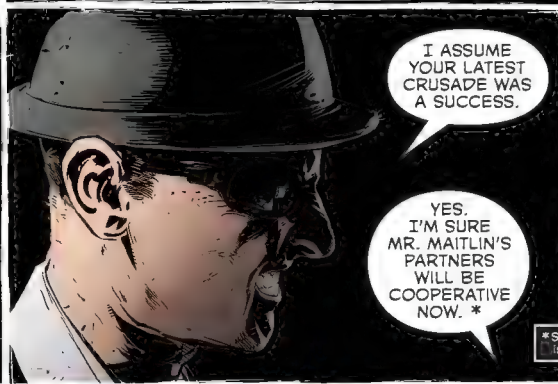
A PLACE WHERE A PERSON  
CAN WILLINGLY DISAPPEAR.



THEN BE REBORN  
IN ITS SHADOWS.







I ASSUME  
YOUR LATEST  
CRUSADE WAS  
A SUCCESS.

YES.  
I'M SURE  
MR. MAITLIN'S  
PARTNERS  
WILL BE  
COOPERATIVE  
NOW. \*

\* See the last few  
issues -- Todd

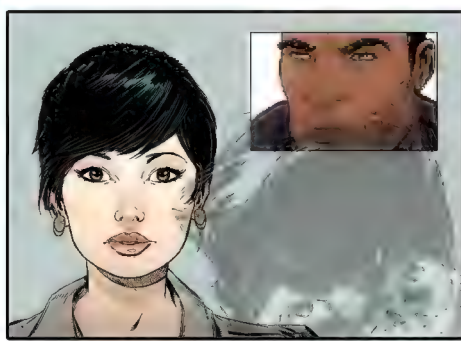
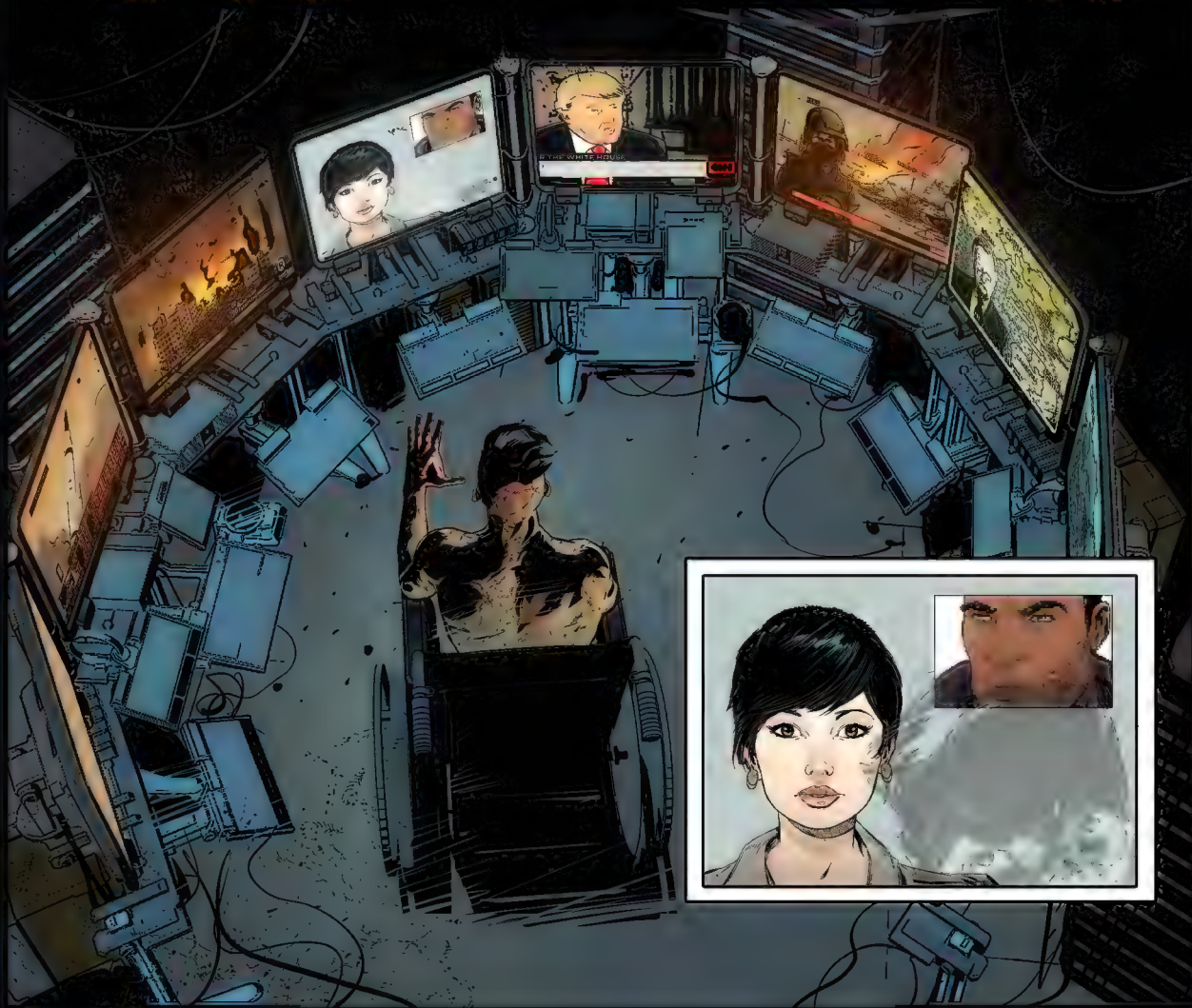


BUT FOR  
TONIGHT MY  
"SOUL  
CRUSHER"  
PERSONA IS  
RETIRED.



ANY  
ESTIMATE  
AS TO WHEN  
HE'LL BE  
BACK?

I'M SORTING  
THROUGH A FEW  
POSSIBILITIES. BUT AS  
YOU KNOW THIS WORLD  
IS FILL WITH SO MANY  
INJUSTICES, IT'S  
DAUNTING TRYING  
TO DECIDE WHICH OF  
THE MEEK NEED MY  
PROTECTION.







AND YOU'RE POSITIVE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET A BETTER VISUAL THAN THAT?

OKAY. THANKS FOR TRYING ANYWAY. LET ME KNOW IF YOU COME UP WITH ANYTHING ELSE. I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN TOMORROW. IN THE MEANTIME, DID THOSE SHOE PRINTS WE TOOK FROM THE BACK YARD NARROW YOUR SEARCH?

ASK THEM IF THEY THINK IT'S A FOREIGN OR DOMESTIC BRAND?

DID YOU HEAR MY PARTNER? WHAT'S THAT? YEAH, I'LL HOLD.



THEY JUST DELIVERED THE BACKGROUND ON THE OLDER MAITLIN. SOME OF HIS BUSINESS PARTNERS HAVE BEEN LESS THAN MODEL CITIZENS.



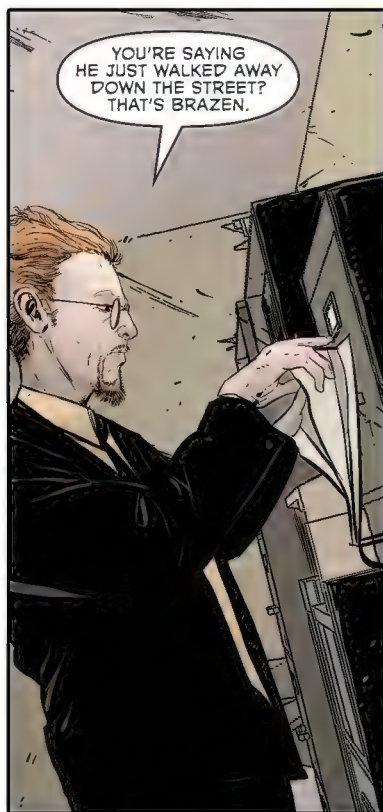
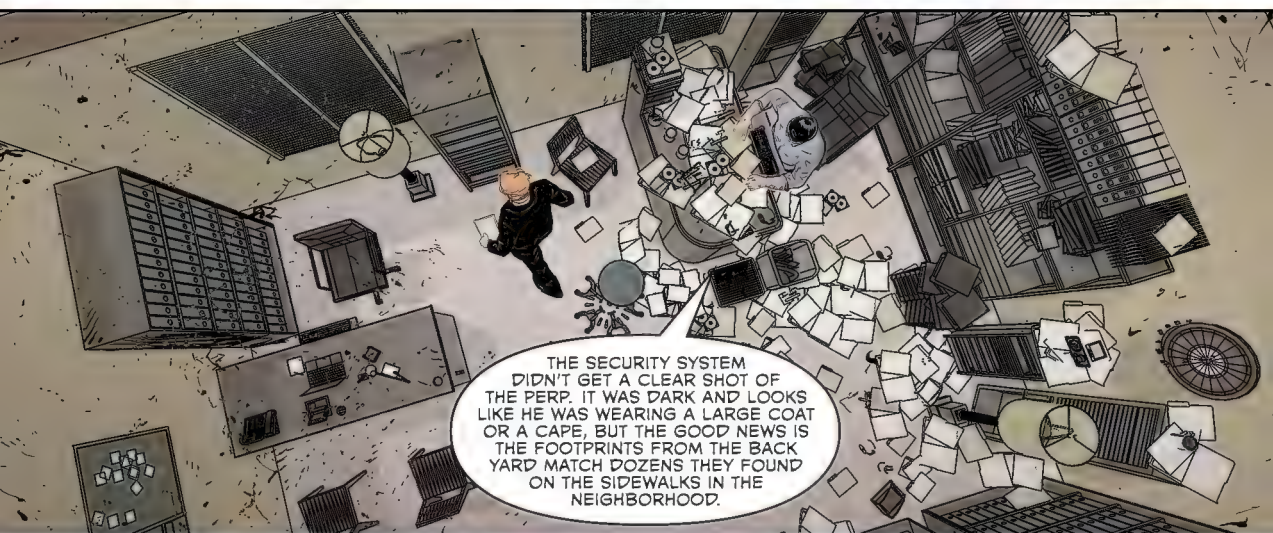
YOU DON'T THINK ONE OF THEM DID IT?



NO. BUT ONE OF THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS DISAPPEARED YEARS AGO OFF THE COAST OF SPAIN. THE NEXT WEEK THEIR STOCK PRICE DROPPED TWENTY PERCENT.

SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS, GIVEN WE BOTH THINK HE WAS LYING ABOUT NOT HAVING ANY ENEMIES?

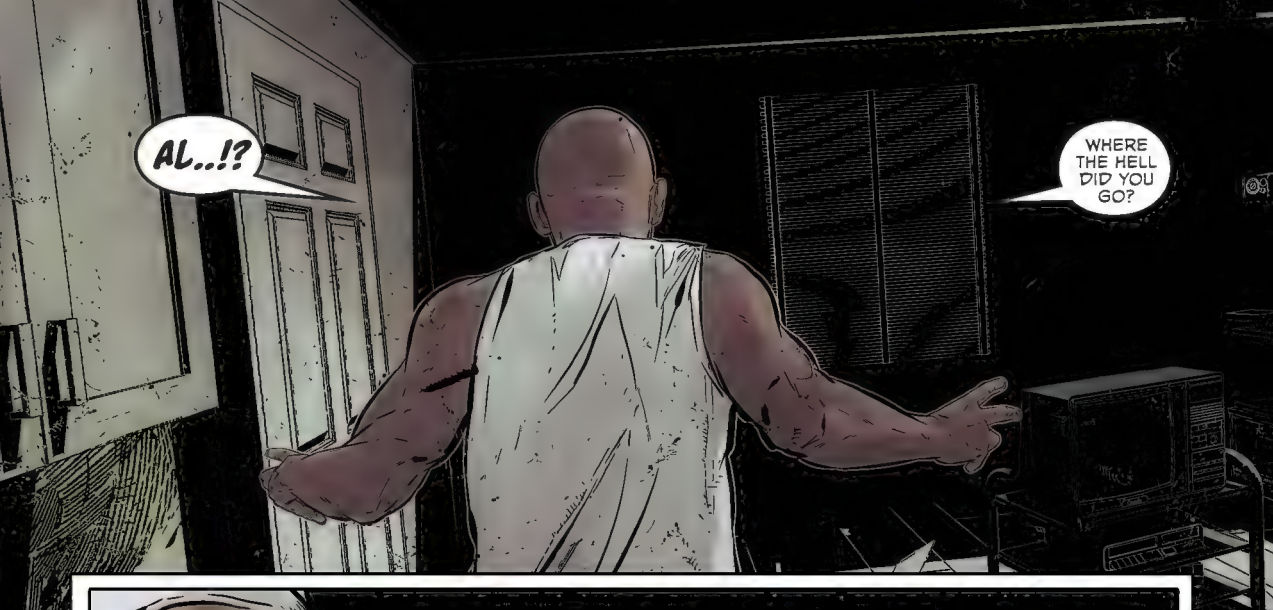












AL...!?

WHERE  
THE HELL  
DID YOU  
GO?



TAP



?

BEHIND  
YOU.

I CAN TRAVEL  
THROUGH SHADOWS.  
ANYWHERE  
THERE IS SOME  
PLACE DARK.

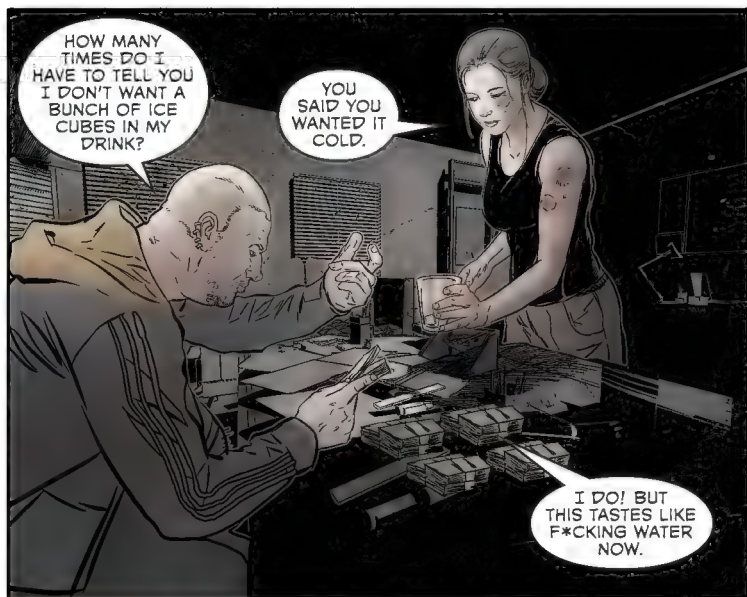
HOW?

I TOLD  
YOU. YOU  
HAVE TO DIE  
FIRST.





**JUDITH!**  
GET YOUR ASS  
IN HERE!



HOW MANY  
TIMES DO I  
HAVE TO TELL YOU  
I DON'T WANT A  
BUNCH OF ICE  
CUBES IN MY  
DRINK?

YOU  
SAID YOU  
WANTED IT  
COLD.

I DO! BUT  
THIS TASTES LIKE  
F\*CKING WATER  
NOW.



SO, TAKE  
THIS SHIT OUT OF  
MY FACE AND BRING  
ME ANOTHER ONE.  
BUT DO IT RIGHT  
THIS TIME.

I WAS  
TRYING TO  
DO IT  
RIGHT.



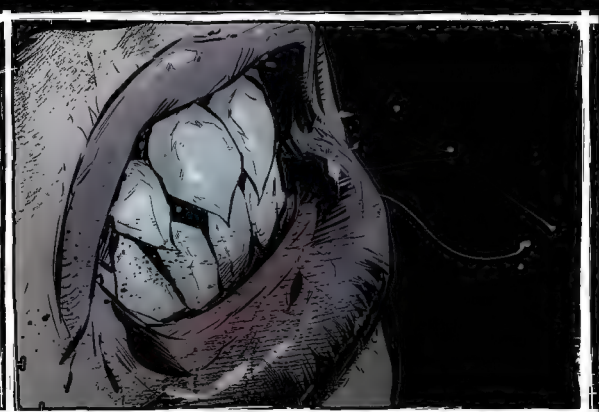
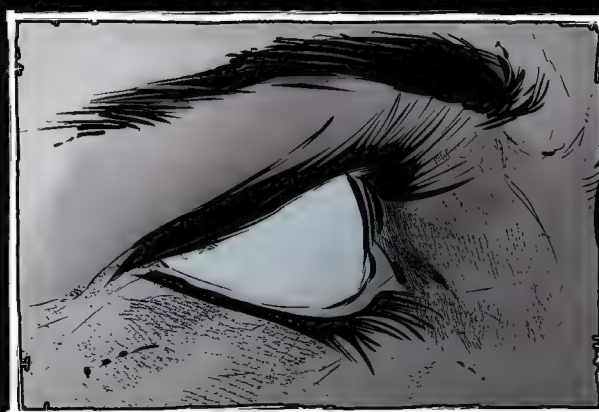
ARE YOU TALKING  
**BACK TO ME, BITCH!?**  
I DIDN'T ASK YOU YOUR  
OPINION--**I GAVE YOU**  
**AN ORDER!** I'LL CUT YOUR  
DAMN TONGUE OUT IF YOU  
SPEAK TO ME LIKE  
THAT AGAIN.

**BERNIE,**  
**STOP!**





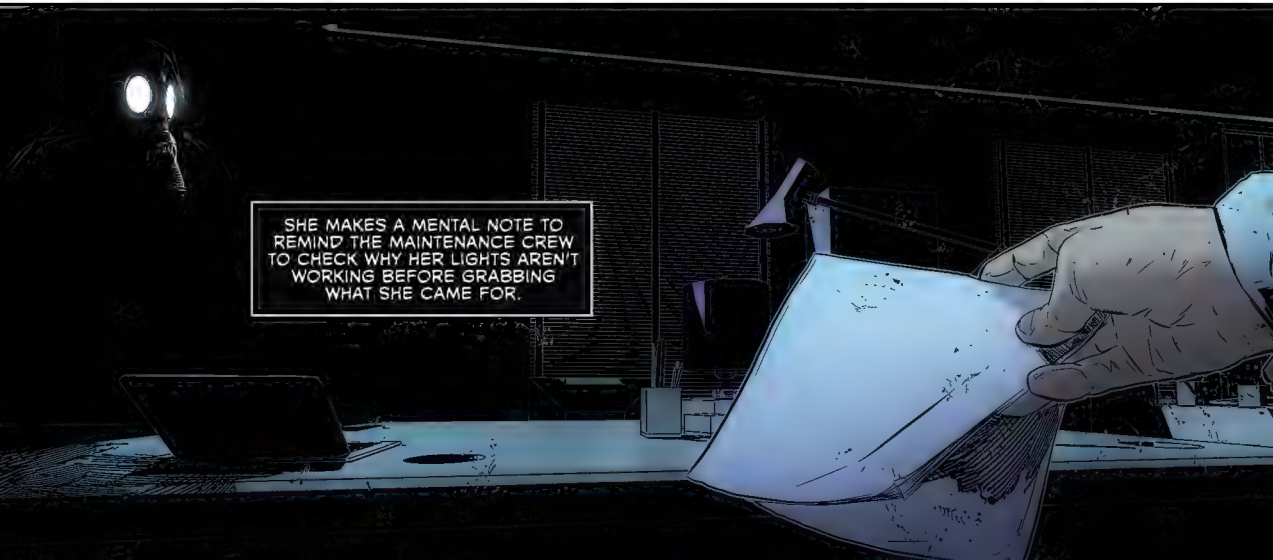






AT THE INSTITUTION WHERE CYAN WAS BEING TREATED BEFORE HER INEXPLICABLE DISAPPEARANCE A FEW DAYS AGO, THE STAFF IS TRYING TO GET BACK INTO A NORMAL ROUTINE. THE PAST 48 HOURS THEY HAVE ALL HAD TO DEAL WITH POLICE AND FEDERAL AGENTS.

BUT WITH THE GOOD NEWS THAT CYAN FITZGERALD HAS BEEN FOUND AND IS BACK WITH HER FATHER, THE DOCTORS AND NURSES HERE CAN TURN THEIR FOCUS TO THEIR OTHER PATIENTS.







THE GIRL FROM  
THE NEWS. THE ONE  
THAT WAS KIDNAPPED. I  
NEED TO KNOW EVERY-  
THING ABOUT HER.

I THINK SHE  
MAY BE IN  
**DANGER!**

**TO BE CONTINUED**



# SPAWNING GROUND

P.O. Box 12230  
Tempe, AZ 85284-0038

twitter.com/Todd\_McFarlane  
Facebook.com/liketoddmcFarlane

## MONTHLY CONTEST

WIN a 10 minute Skype call with Todd McFarlane and some COOL McFarlane toys and comics!

Each month readers will be giving a secret code word available ONLY in Spawning Ground.

Enter that code word HERE:

**[mcfarlane.com/spawningground](http://mcfarlane.com/spawningground)**  
for your chance to win awesome prizes!

Spawn 273 Code Word: **REDCAPESRULE**

Winners will be notified by email two weeks after the release of the comic.

Good Luck!

Thank you all for being loyal fans of Spawn!

Shannon Bailey  
Publishing Coordinator



### NEXT ISSUE

The Soul Crusher continues his reign of terror, but Sam and Twitch are on the case. They vow to bring him down.



ONE WOMAN  
CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

MATT HAWKINS • ATILIO ROJO

# SAMARITAN

## VERITAS #1

May 24, 2017



[www.topcow.com](http://www.topcow.com)

we create...icons!

Samaritan™ Top Cow Productions, Inc. 2017. All rights reserved.



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AND EISNER AWARD-WINNING 100 BULLETS  
CREATIVE TEAM BRIAN AZZARELLO AND EDUARDO RISSO REUNITE FOR

# MOONSHINE™



*"More addictive than forbidden booze."*

*-Fabio Moon*



*"Beautiful and one of the most expertly  
crafted first issues I have ever read...  
damn near perfect. Five out of five."*

*-Nerdist*

*"As darkly beautiful and engrossing as  
you'd expect from Azzarello & Risso...with  
a kick as strong as the best corn liquor."*

*-Jason Aaron*

**AVAILABLE NOW**

**IMAGECOMICS.COM**

MOONSHINE™ & © 2016 Brian Azzarello and Eduardo Risso. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.